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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Ronald Bruce Hawkins

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EXAMINER

STRONCZER, RYAN S

ART UNIT

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/802,589	HAWKINS ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Ryan Stronczer	2623	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 24 June 2008 with respect to claims 2 and 4 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to claim 2, Applicant alleges that the claimed subject matter is not inherent in Pontenzone simply because "it is entirely possible for an Internet playlist to be specific to a particular client device as not" (Remarks, pg. 7). Examiner respectfully disagrees. Examiner maintains that since the playlist taught by Pontenzone is intended to be distributed to users via Internet radio, it is inherent that the playlist taught by Pontenzone can be accessed by users via more than one specific client device.

Applicant's arguments, see pg. 7-8, filed 24 June 2008, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Goronzy et al., as analyzed below.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 1, 2, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pontenzone et al. (Pub. No. US2002/0152278) and further in view of Hori et al. (US Pat. No.: 7,209,942).**

Claim 1 is rejected for the same reasons as set forth in the previous Office Action. As to the amended limitation that the database contain demographic data including, "income range," Pontenzone, as applied in the previous Office Actions, teaches the recited system but does not explicitly teach the recited demographic data. Hori et al. teaches a method for a search engine to suggest content to a user. Fig. 2D teaches that the system considers the user profile when searching the database, said profile including information including: sex, age, marital status, etc. Though not explicitly taught by Fig. 2D, income range is an extension of the personal profile taught by Hori that would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention as it would have allowed the system to present the user with more personalized search results. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the system taught by Pontenzone with the user profile and preferences taught by Hori to provide users with content that they are more likely to wish to purchase.

As to claim 2, the system taught by Pontenzone is intended to be used by any user with Internet access and a web-browser, thus the functionality of claims 2 and 4 are inherent in the system taught by Pontenzone.

Claim 4 recites the system of claim 1, wherein "the playlist is stored on the network, such that its consumer can share the playlist with other users on the network."

Fig .1 of Pontenzone teaches a system comprising a database **400** and a station and playlist management module **235** which are accessible to a user through front end **300**. Pontenzone further teaches that the station and playlist module *"manages the content delivered by a number of stations over the network"* [ABST]. In light of system 100 and the fact that the content streamed over the network by Pontenzone is intended to be shared with users via the Internet, the recited functionality is inherent in the system of Pontenzone.

**Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pontenzone et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Asmussen et al. (Pub. No.: US2002/0042923) and Hempleman et al. (US Patent No.: 6,243,725).**

The rejection of claim 5 set forth in the previous Office Action is incorporated herein. As to the amended limitation that "...if the metadata associated with the title indicates a billable event, at least in part using purchase price information in the metadata, billing the user for downloading content associated with the title," Pontenzone does not explicitly teach that the user can purchase a specific title from a playlist, as claimed. Asmussen teaches a multimedia content suggestion engine, similar to the search engine taught by Pontenzone in which metadata content associated with a specific multimedia file may contain, *"...a program description, including program rating, program description, video clips, program length, format (e.g., 4.times.3 television or 16.times.9 movies), and other information; billing information and digital rights management information"* [0017]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in

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the art at the time of the invention that the billing information contained in the metadata file taught by Asmussen could be purchase price information, as recited.

As to claim 6, Fig. 6-7 of Hempleman teach methods for accepting payment from a user. Regarding keeping records of transactions, Hempleman teaches, “[r]eport information can be transmitted to the system **20** for billing purposes...as well as making royalty payments to appropriate recipients” (Col. 7, Line 34-39). The system (object **20**) is located remotely from the user and is connected to the terminal via an Internet connection, as shown in Fig. 6-7. As analyzed above the combination of Hempleman with Pontenzone would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

As to claim 7, Asmussen teaches a system which allows a user to search for multimedia content on a digital communication network and which tracks user data. Asmussen teaches, “[a] user database server **511** maintains an aggregator user database **512**, which stores and processes information including, but not limited to, user account data, user profile information, user subscription services, user access rights, and past user search and download data (if authorized by the user)” [0072]. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the user database server taught by Asmussen into the system taught by Pontenzone to provide better users of Pontenzone’s system with increased access to available content.

**Claims 8-12 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pontenzone as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Asmussen and Goronzy et al. (Pub. No.: US 2006/0156326).**

As to claim 8, Pontenzone teaches a method for generating a multimedia playlist based on a user search and allows users to create user profiles or identities that are stored on the network, but does not explicitly teach methods for archiving user search history or for using such archives to generate search results. Asmussen teaches an analogous method for searching content on a digital communications network, including functionality to store user profile information comprising:

user account type, user access level, and historical data. The user history analysis report is a summary of statistical analysis of the user's previous account activities that may include previous search requests, returned search results, and content download requests. [0078]

As to generating content suggestions based on the user profile data, Fig. 3a-b of Goronzy teach a method for weighting the data in a user profile, similar to the historical analysis report taught by Asmussen, prior to conducting a search in order to return content suggestions that match the user's interest. Further, Fig. 5a and 5b teach a method for employing the user profile data and rankings determined in the method of Fig. 3 to return content suggestions customized to the user profile. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the playlist generation system of Pontenzone with the user profile taught by Asmussen and the search method taught by Goronzy to allow the system to present users with profile-specific content suggestions in a manner cumulative the claimed method.

Claim 9 recites the method of claim 8, "...without constraining the client device to be a particular single type of device." The playlist taught by Pontenzone is intended to be distributed to users via Internet radio. It is inherent that the playlist taught by Pontenzone can be accessed by users via more than one specific client device.

As to claim 10, both Pontenzone and Asmussen provide functionality for users to initiate a search.

As to claims 11 and 12, the recited functionality is inherent in the system taught by Pontenzone. Fig .1 of Pontenzone teaches a system comprising a database **400** and a station and playlist management module **235** which are accessible to a user through front end **300**. Pontenzone further teaches that the station and playlist module *"manages the content delivered by a number of stations over the network"* [ABST]. In light of system 100 and the fact that the content streamed over the network by Pontenzone is intended to be shared with users via the Internet, the recited functionality is inherent in the system of Pontenzone.

As to claim 15 Asmussen teaches that the system is capable of receiving a search request from a user and in paragraph 0078 (cited above) teaches that the system further stores past search requests.

**Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pontenzone in view of Asmussen and Goronzy as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Hempleman.**



As to claim 13, Pontenzone in view of Asmussen and Goronzy teaches the method of claim 8, but does not explicitly teach that the user can purchase a specific title from the playlist as claimed. Asmussen teaches that a specific multimedia file may contain, *"...a program description, including program rating...billing information and digital rights management information"* [0017] but does not explicitly teach a mechanism for utilizing the billing data to purchase the specified content. Hempleman teaches an analogous system for creating a playlist via a user-initiated search request, similar to that taught by Pontenzone. Fig. 6 of Hempleman teaches a "credit card input device" that facilitates the purchase of multimedia content over a network. *"The unit 20 also supervisory and billing services in response to requests by the end user's unit 22 for access to one or more of the works stored in the inventory in the databases 20b"* (Col. 6, Lines 55-60). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the purchasing functionality taught by Hempleman with the content request functionality taught by Pontenzone to facilitate the purchase of requested content.

As to claim 14, Fig. 6-7 of Hempleman teach methods for accepting payment from a user. Regarding keeping records of transactions, Hempleman teaches that *"[r]eport information can be transmitted to the system 20 for billing purposes...as well as making royalty payments to appropriate recipients"* (Col. 7, Line 34-39). The system (object 20) is located remotely from the user and is connected to the terminal via an Internet connection, as shown in Fig. 6-7.

***Contact***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan Stronczer whose telephone number is (571) 270-3756. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM (EDT), Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian T. Pendleton can be reached on (571) 272-7527. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Examiner, Art Unit 2623

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Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2623